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interest, but of great practical importance in regard to the cutting of timber.

When the starch is naturally transforming, or is transformed, it is a good media in most woods, if exposed, for the growth of various ferments and moulds—in short, fungi, which hasten the decay of the sap-wood at least. P. H. DUDLEY.

Index to Recent American Botanical Literature.

Agave Americana. (Gard. Month., xxviii, p. 171.)

We are informed that a century plant is about coming into flower in the garden of Mr. George Casey, at Auburn, N. Y.

Algo-Lichen Hypothesis.—A Résumé of the. F. H. Knowlton. (Amer. Month. Micros. Journ., vii., pp. 101–105.)

In a paper read before the Biological Society of Washington, Mr. Knowlton discusses the hypothesis of the compound nature of lichens advanced by Schwendener in 1868, and since elaborated by other botanists, and concludes with Rev. J. M. Crombie that the evidence thus far adduced is insufficient to warrant its acceptance.

Arctostaphylos—Notes on the United States Pacific Coast Species. C. C. Parry. (Proc. Davenport Acad. Nat. Sci., iv., pp. 31–37.)

Arctic Algæ—Notes on; based principally on collections made at Ungava Bay by L. M. Turner, in 1884. W. G. Farlow. (Proc. Amer. Acad. Arts and Sci., xxi., pp. 470, 471.)

The collections contain a number of Florideæ which are seldom seen in herbaria. 150 specimens of *Delesseria* were collected which tend to show that *D. corymbosa* and *D. Bærii* are bnt one species.

Chorizanthe.—A Revision of the Genus. C. C. Parry. (Proc. Davenport Acad. Nat. Sci., iv., pp. 45–65.)

Conifers.— Contributions to the History of Certain Species of. Maxwell T. Masters. (Journ. Linn. Soc., xxii., pp. 169-212, plates II-X and woodcuts.)

Those who are specially interested in this group will find much to attract them in this article, illustrated as it is on almost every page by drawings made from the living plant, either native or cultivated. The species from the U. S. described and figured are *Abies amabilis*, Forbes, *A. grandis*, Lindl., *A. concolor*, Lindl., *A. subalpina*, Englm., *A. nobilis* and *A. magnifica*, with varieties.

Contributions to American Botany, XIII. Sereno Watson. (Proc. Amer. Acad. Arts and Sci., xxi., pp. 414-468.)

This latest of Mr. Watson's contributions is made up of (1st.) A List of Plants collected by Dr. Edward Palmer, in Southwestern Chihuahua, Mexico, in 1885. This collection comprises between five and six hundred numbers and has furnished many new species; the Gamopetalæ were named by Dr. Gray, the Gramineæ by Dr. Vasey, and the Cryptogams by Professor Eaton. (2d.) Descriptions of New Species of Plants, chiefly from the Pacific States and Chihuahua, in which 37 undescribed plants are characterized. (3d.) Notes upon Plants collected in the Department of Ysabal, Guatemala, February to April, 1885; and (4th.) Notes upon some Palms of Guatemala.

Coreopsis.—Annual Species of. (Garden, xxix., pp. 498, 499, with plate.)

Coreopsis cardaminefolia, *C. Drummondii*, *C. aurea*, *C. Atkinsoniana*, and *C. aristosa*, are figured and directions are given for growing these and other species in gardens.

Desmidieæ.—Key to the. A. C. Stokes. (Amer. Month. Micros. Journ., vii., pp. 109-114.)

An artificial classification of North American Desmids, including both genera and species, with references to the pages of Mr. Wolle's "Desmids of the United States."

Diatoms.

Mr. E. A. Congdon reported to the Natural Science Association of Staten Island a list of twenty-two fossil diatoms discovered near Clove Lake. All but three have also been found living in the neighboring ponds. These are *Stephanodiscus Niagaræ*, *Biblarium rhombus* and *Actinoptychus annulatus.*

Flora of Iowa.—Contributions to the. J. C. Arthur. (Proc. Davenport Acad. Nat. Sci., iv., pp. 27-30 and 64-75.)

Flora of the Yellowstone National Park. Frank Tweedy. (Pamphlet, 8vo, 78 pp., Washington, 1886; published by the author.)

A catalogue of plants hitherto found in the Yellowstone Park, with their distribution and habitat, and localities of those less commonly met with. The work is mainly the result of Mr. Tweedy's explorations of the region in 1884 and 1885, when he obtained 605 species. Additional information has been derived from published accounts of collections made by Robert Adams, Professor Coulter, Dr. Parry and Dr. W. H. Forwood. The topographic features of the Park, its forests, the alpine flora, the flora of bogs, ponds and streams, the plants found about the Hot Springs and Geysers, and the grasses are discussed, and much interesting information is presented. In all, 657 species are enumerated. The area of the Park is about 3,350 square miles.

Gentiana Bigelovii. Gray. (Curtis' Botanical Magazine, xlii., tab. 6,874.)

Beautiful figures of this plant are given with quotations from Dr. Gray's description in the Synoptical Flora. The plants from which the drawings were made grew from seeds sent by Dr. Parry, and flowered in August in the rock-garden, being perfectly hardy.

Harvard's Botanic Garden and its Botanists. Ernest Ingersoll (The Century Magazine, xxxii., pp. 237-248.)

An interesting account of this famous garden and of Dr. Gray's Herbarium. The garden was founded in 1805 under the direction of William Dandridge Peck, the first Professor of Natural History. For ten years after 1822 it was under the charge of Thomas Nuttall, and subsequently was cared for by William Carter. Dr. Gray's connection with it began in 1842. His library and herbarium were presented to Harvard College in 1862, and were placed in the fireproof building they now occupy two years later. Since 1874 all the instruction in botany has been given by Professors Goodale and Farlow and their assistants. The herbarium is now said to number more than 300,000 specimens.

Hypocreaceæ.—Synopsis of the North American. Continued. (Journ. Mycol., ii., pp. 61 69.)

Lilium pardalinum. (Garden, xxix., pp. 524, 525, two woodcuts and a colored plate.)

Montreal Botanic Garden. D. P. Penhallow. (First Annual Report, 1885.)

The site "where the earliest spring flowers bloom" has been selected on Mt. Royal, and some progress has been made in planting. A government appropriation and several private donations have enabled the work to proceed in a quite encouraging manner.

New Plants from Southern and Lower California. C. C. Parry. (Proc. Davenport Acad. Nat. Sci., iv., pp. 38-40.)

Phacelia suffrutescens, Ptelea aptera, Polygala Fishiæ and *Gilia Orcuttii* are here described.

Opium Mould—A yellow. (Eurotium aspergillus-glaucus, Lk.) Wm. Trelease. (Contrib. Dep. Pharmacy Univ. Wisc., ii., pp. 5-9; illustrated.)

It was found on cutting open a cake of Turkey opium. With the naked eye the mycelium and perithecia could be distinguished, as they differ in color. Other spores were also distinguished but could not be identified.

Oxalis acetosella. (Gardener's Chronicle, xxv., pp. 684, 685, with figure.)

The question is again raised whether this or *Trifolium repens* be the true shamrock.

Phosphorescent Fungi. J. B. Everhart. (Journ. Mycol., ii., pp. 70-71.)

Note is made of *Panus stypticus* having been noted by two observers to be phosphorescent in the gills. This phenomenon was only noted on specimens gathered in damp weather just before a storm.

Picea Menziesii. (Gard. Chron., xxv., p. 728; two figures.)

Platanus occidentalis. (Gard. Month., xxviii., pp. 165, 166; one figure.)

Quercus virens.—The American Live Oak. (Garden, xxix., p. 532; one cut.)

Botanical Notes.

Medicinal Plants wanted. Dr. C. F. Millspaugh, of Binghamton, New York, is anxious to obtain typical, living, flowering specimens of *Spigelia Marilandica, Stillingia sylvatica,*